

## Stem Cell Agency Funds More Than \$66 Million in Research Including New Genomics Initiative

Posted: January 29, 2014

**San Francisco, CA** – A team bringing together experts and investigators from seven different major California institutions has been awarded \$40 million to create a new Center of Excellence in Stem Cell Genomics, by California's stem cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

The Center of Excellence will focus on bridging the fields of genomics – studying the complete genetic make-up of a cell or organism – with stem cell research. The goal is to use these tools to gain a deeper understanding of the disease processes in cancer, diabetes, heart disease and mental health, and ultimately to try and find safer and more effective ways of using stem cells in medical research and therapy.

"This Center of Excellence in Stem Cell Genomics shows why we are considered one of the global leaders in stem cell research," says Alan Trounson, Ph.D., President of the stem cell agency. "Bringing together this team, to do this kind of work means we will be better able to understand how stem cells change as they grow and become different kinds of cells. That deeper knowledge, that you can only get through a genomic analysis of the cells, will help us develop better ways of using these cells to come up with new treatments for deadly diseases."

The Center of Excellence consists of Stanford University and the Salk Institute for Biological studies as the joint Principal Investigators; U.C. San Diego, the Scripps Research Institute, the J. Craig Venter Institute and Illumina Inc., all in San Diego, will also collaborate on the project; U.C. Santa Cruz will run the Data Coordination and Management component.

The award includes \$19 million for the Center team to carry out independent and collaborative projects including investigating disease mechanisms and the development of new technologies for this kind of work. The Data Coordination and Management program will enable the research to be shared with other investigators around California and the world.

In addition to the Center of Excellence the stem cell agency's governing Board, the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) also approved more than \$27 million in funding for the Basic Biology V awards. These go to researchers trying to advance the field by tackling significant, unresolved issues in human stem cell biology.

These awards, which go to 27 different projects, include:

- \$1.1 million to Dr. Gary Steinberg, a neurologist at Stanford University, to study how human neural or brain nerve stem cells can help people recovering from a stroke.
- \$1.1 million to Dr. Christian Metallo from the University of California, San Diego, to better understand what nutrients are needed to make stem cells grow and function as heart cells, for use in treating heart disease.
- \$624,816 to Dr. Paul Noble, Director of the Lung Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles to identify the mechanisms needed for stem cells to help repair damage to lungs.

"These awards reflect the breadth of what we do at the stem cell agency," says Jonathan Thomas, Ph.D., J.D., Chair of the governing Board. "Funding the Center of Excellence in Stem Cell Genomics highlights our commitment to advancing the field with the most cutting edge approaches, and our Basic Biology awards show we remain committed to deepening our understanding of every aspect of stem cells. Only by this deeper understanding at the basic level can we hope to advance research at more advanced levels." The meeting also saw the swearing in of two new Board members – Lauren Miller as the Patient Advocate for Alzheimer's and Joe Panetta as the representative for the biotech industry.

The Board also passed a resolution honoring Michael Goldberg, who is standing down after two terms on the ICOC. Goldberg was praised for a "bringing wealth of knowledge, insight, and experience to CIRM" and that his commitment and leadership "contributed greatly to the momentum of discovery and the future therapies which will be the ultimate outcome of the dedicated work of the researchers receiving CIRM funding."

### Basic Biology V Awards

Grant number	Name	Institution	Total Funds Requested
RB5-07363	Gary Steinberg	Stanford University	\$1,178,370
RB5-07466	Marius Wernig	Stanford University	\$1,178,370
RB5-07469	Helen Blau	Stanford University	\$1,175,357
RB5-07236	Maike Sander	University of California, San Diego	\$1,161,000
RB5-07356	Christian Metallo	University of California, San Diego	\$1,124,834
RB5-07025	Cornelis Murre	University of California, San Diego	\$1,161,000
RB5-07012	Wei Wang	University of California, San Diego	\$1,161,000
RB5-07384	Ronald Evans	Salk Institute	\$1,491,900
RB5-07302	Paul Noble	Cedars-Sinai	\$624,816
RB5-06978	David Cheresh	University of California, San Diego	\$1,161,000
RB5-07480	Thomas Otis	University of California, Los Angeles	\$1,148,758
RB5-07254	Lisa Flanagan	University of California, Irvine	\$1,003,590
RB5-06974	Andrew Dillin	University of California, Berkeley	\$1,174,040
RB5-07230	Denis Evseenko	University of California, Los Angeles	\$1,146,468
RB5-07210	Miles Wilkinson	University of California, San Diego	\$619,200
RB5-07422	Thomas Rando	Palo Alto Institute for Research and Education, Inc.	\$966,510
RB5-07089	Lili Yang	University of California, Los Angeles	\$614,400
RB5-07011	Lawrence Goldstein	University of California, San Diego	\$1,161,000
RB5-07262	Mark Anderson	University of California, San Francisco	\$1,191,000
RB5-07379	Dianne McKay	University of California, San Diego	\$615,639
RB5-07409	Valeria Weaver	University of California, San Francisco	\$1,186,500
RB5-06935	Xinnan Wang	Stanford University	\$1,174,943
RB5-07458	Peter Donovan	University of California, Irvine	\$540,480
RB5-07285	Sheng Ding	The J. David Gladstone Institutes	\$1,423,800
RB5-07414	Kara McCloskey	University of California, Merced	\$476,052
RB5-07320	Samantha Butler	University of California, Los Angeles	\$598,367
RB5-07398	David Tirrell	Cal Tech	\$526,896
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$26,985,290</b>

**About CIRM:** CIRM was established in November 2004 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act. The statewide ballot measure, which provided \$3 billion in funding for stem cell research at California universities and research institutions, was overwhelmingly approved by voters, and called for the establishment of an entity to make grants and provide loans for

stem cell research, research facilities, and other vital research.

Contact:

Kevin McCormack

415-396-9813

kmccormack@circ.ca.gov

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.cirm.ca.gov/about-cirm/newsroom/press-releases/01292014/stem-cell-agency-funds-more-66-million-research>